

FÂRDEA



Local Council Office: Fârdea no. 105, telephone 0256/335411, fax 0256/320793;

Coordinates:

45°44'20" N lat;
22°09'37" E long.;

Historical landmarks:

- the Xth century - there was a fortress in Gladna Montană, allegedly built during the time of Voivode Glad;

1361 - the first mention of the locality in a Hungarian document - **Turd**;

-the XVth century - there was a Romanian district in the area with seven villages ("**districtus volachalis Thwrd**");

-12 August 2001 - the cornerstone of the monastery was set on the bank of the Surduc lake;

-5 April 1881 - **Virgil Simonescu** was born in Gladna Română, academic painter and art critic (d. 1941);

-1936 - the village of Fârdea had 906 inhabitants and 160 houses;

-2002 - the commune of Fârdea had 1,850 inhabitants;

Total population on 1 January 2010: 1,780 persons, of which:

- male = 873 persons

- female = 907 persons

Number of households on 1 January 2010: 1,057

Member villages:

Fârdea, Drăgșinești (1453, Drasinfalva, "Dragu's village"), Gladna Montană (1454, Felso Gladna and Also Gladna), Gladna Română (1784, Olah Gladna), Hăuzești (1464, Hewgest), Mâtnicu Mic (1364, Muchnuk), Zolt (1453, Zolth).

Educational institutions: Elementary Schools (I-VIII): Fârdea; Primary Schools (I-IV): Gladna Română; Kindergartens with normal hours: Fârdea and Gladna Română;

Health facilities: Local clinics: Fârdea; Drugstores: Fârdea; Sanitary-veterinary

practices: Fârdea;

Cultural institutions: Community centres: Fârdea, Hăuzești, Mâtnicu Mic, Drăgșinești, Gladna Montană, Gladna Română and Zolt; Library: Fârdea (founded in 1974);

Fitness and sports facilities:

- Leisure: the Surduc lake;

Churches, monasteries and other places of worship:

- Romanian Orthodox Churches: Fârdea (1853), Hăuzești (1883), Mâtnicu Mic (1912), Drăgșinești (1996), Gladna Montană (the first record in 1894, 1962), Gladna Română (the first record in 1896; 1955) and Zolt (wooden church, the XVIIth century, 1934); Baptist Churches: Fârdea (1900), Mâtnicu Mic, Drăgșinești, Gladna Română (1904) and Zolt (1920); Pentecostal Church: Fârdea; Monastery in Fârdea;

Annual Church Festivals and other religious and cultural events:

The annual church festival and the Patron Saints of the localities: Fârdea (Pentecost), Zolt (29 June - Saints Apostles Peter and Paul), Gladna Montană (29 August, Beheading of Saint John the Baptist), Hăuzești (30 August), Gladna Română (8 September - the Nativity of Virgin Mary), Mâtnicu Mic (15 September - The New Saint Hierarch Joseph from Partoș), Drăgșinești (14 October - Saint Pious Parascheva); The Patron Saint of the Monastery from Fârdea (15 August and 14 October); "The Day of the Dam" (the first Sunday of August);

THE CITY HALL AND THE LOCAL COUNCIL OF FÂRDEA

Lupulescu Samuel	Mayor	Marinescu Vasile - Ionel, LC member	SDP
Capotescu Lion	Vice Mayor	Marinescu Victor - Ionel, LC member	GRP
Ianculescu Dorica, LC member	NGP	Pîrvoni Victor, LC member	DLP
Iosifoni Ionel, LC member	NLP	Peșteanu Cristian Dănuț, LC member	NLP
Izgherean Mircea, LC member	SDP	Vasiloni Petrică Nicolae, LC member	NLP
Lazăr Victor, LC member	DLP		

FÂRDEA

THE GIRL'S MEADOW

The legend says that when Banat was under Ottoman ruling, and Timișoara, Lipova and Jula (Gyula, from Hungary) were part of the same pashalik, around 1658, a love story began between Feriz, the bey's son from Margina, and a very beautiful girl from Fârdea, Florica, daughter of Pavel Piescu. The pasha's son came to Fârdea from Margina, almost 30 kilometres away in order to meet the girl, passing through a dangerous forest. The local people did not like the connection between the Christian girl and the Muslim young man. Florica's brothers and her father, upset because the girl did not want to marry the Knyaz's son from Fârdea, waited for Feriz, captured him and punished his love by killing him right in the meadow where the two lovers met and buried him there. Then, they ran in the forest of Pageș (Padeș) together with the whole village for fear of the Ottoman vengeance. Led by Florica, the Ottomans found the place where the villagers were hiding, surrounded the forest and captured Florica's brothers in a clearance. From the crowd, Trincă, the oldest brother of Pavel Piescu's girl (who was working for the noble

Sigismund of Sărmășag) stood out and stabbed Florica in the chest with a knife, killing her instantly. The Ottomans butchered the Romanians. Only a few children who took the cattle to the mountains escaped. Ibrahim, the bey from Margina, buried Florica next to his son Feriz in the place called The Girl's Meadow ever since.

After 350 years, the love story between Feriz, the bey's son from Margina, and the beautiful Romanian girl from Fârdea seems to repeat itself, but this time with a "happy-end". Berisha Islam was born in the former Yugoslavia, on 5 October 1964, being of Muslim religion. He completed the military service when he was 20 years old, in Macedonia. He was an aircraft mechanic (MIGs). In 1986, he came to Romania for the first time. He met Lămâița, a girl from Gladna Montană in the summer of 1990. As Islam himself tells us, it was love at first sight. He settled in Romania on 5 October 1991 because of the civil and religious wars that started in his country, Berisha declaring that he did not want to kill people. He stood by his lover, Lămâița, to raise their son and to earn his living working in the forestry exploitation around the village of Gladna Montană.

"THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY" HERMITAGE

The place of worship from Fârdea was founded in 2001, with the blessing of His Holiness Metropolitan Nicolae Corneanu, as a hermitage. The cornerstone was set by His Holiness Vicar Bishop Lucian Lugoianu on 12 August 2001. It is located in the immediate vicinity of the

accumulation lake of Surduc. The religious masses are given in the newly-built church, consecrated on 12 October 2003. In 2004, the cells and the bell tower were finished. It cannot accommodate pilgrims.

The Patron Saint of the monastery is "The Virgin Mary", celebrated on 15 August, "The Assumption of Mary". The abbot of the hermitage where the nuns live as a community is the nun **Olimpiada Tiliuță**.



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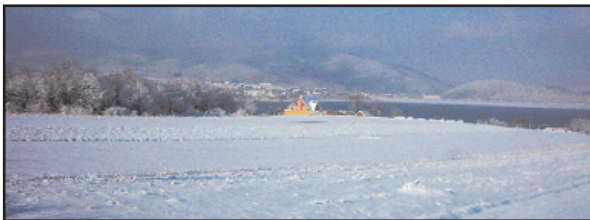
THE PEASANT FOUNDER

The “Saints Apostles Peter and Paul” wooden church from the village of Zolt was elevated in the XVIIIth century. It is built (on a stone foundation, following the restoration of 1959) from durmast beams, and the roof is made of shingle. Part of the exterior walls are decorated with votive crosses of heroes. The church door and the lock are the original ones. The cross of the altar table is engraved with Cyrillic letters, as is the inscription on the porch beam. The church was painted for the first time in 1781 (by Teodor Zugravul from Lugoj), then in 1882 (by Lazăr Zugravu from Vârșeț). The founder of the church was **Petru Obeadă**, who is pictured on the south wall of the narthex dressed in peasant clothes specific of the area, holding the church’s shrine in his hand.



THE LARGEST LAKE FROM TIMIȘ

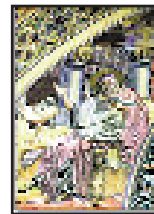
The construction of the dam started in 1972, and the accumulation of Surduc began in 1975, reaching until 1977 almost 25 millions cubic metres of water. The second stage started in 1981, the accumulation being designed for 51 millions cubic metres. The main purpose of the Surduc lake is the supply of drinking water for the area of Timișoara. Besides this, it serves as a protection against floods and it is a place where fishermen and



people who want to relax can spend their free time. The Surduc lake is the largest lake in Timiș county stretching on a surface of 460 hectares. The water of the lake does not freeze, creating the necessary conditions for the survival of thousands of aquatic birds over the winter period.

FROM THE GALLERY OF THE GREAT
ROMANIAN REALISTIC PAINTERS

Virgil Simonescu was born in Gladna Română on 5 April 1881. He attended the primary school in his home commune. He attended the high school from Lugoj. He graduated the Academy of Belle Arte from München, where he studied to become an academic painter. He travelled to Italy, France, Germany and Austria. He returned home and worked as an arts teacher at the “C. Brediceanu” High School from Lugoj. Simonescu was a classical painter, a representative of Romanian realism, being considered “one of the great realistic painters after Grigorescu, Andreescu, Luchian”, according to his biographers Nichifor Someșan and Gavril Blaga. He often introduced in his paintings decorative elements and clothing specific to the Romanian folk costume from Banat. The largest part of his activity was dedicated to church murals. He painted 26 churches from Banat, such as the ones from Lugoj, Mehadia, Boldur, Făget, Gruni, Vârșeț, Buziaș, Bocșa-Română, Reșița, Coșteiu etc., or from Transilvania (Bobâlna, Bran, Sebeș etc.). The metropolitan Bălan from Sibiu commissioned him the painting “Pantocrator” and sent it to Paris where it was appreciated as a religious masterpiece. He was a fine connoisseur of the fine aesthetic and culture and he published critical articles in “Morning Star” magazine from Sibiu. He departed this life in 1941.



The Greek-Catholic Church from Lugoj. Interior mural painting by Virgil Simonescu